

Populist & Progressive Era

Entrance task: For 1 point: Write a definition of the term **progressive** . . . within 15 sec. of the bell and give it to me.

Today: The Progressive Era

Homework: Ch. 17-2

1. The farmers' alliances favored laws that would limit the **foreclosing** of mortgages.
2. The National People's Party was founded by **farmers**.
3. Populists believed that railroads should be owned and operated by the **government**.
4. A referendum is **a popular vote on bills after they have been passed by the state legislature**.
5. In an effort to curb vote fraud, Populists favored **secret ballot**.
6. In the election of 1892, **5** Populist senators were elected, as well as fifteen hundred **state legislators**.
7. The central issue of the election of 1896 was which metal would be the basis of the nation's **monetary system**.
8. "Free silverites" favored the use of **gold** and **silver**.
9. The **Republican/goldbug** candidate won the election of 1896.

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CW p. 12

Recognizing Ideologies: THE OMAHA PLATFORM

Directions: In this worksheet, you will examine the ideology of the Populist Party. The Populist Party Platform was written in 1892 at Omaha, Nebraska. What follows is a summary of the original platform.

We meet (in Omaha) as our nation is on the verge of moral, political, and material ruin. The rich and the bankers control the money in the country for their own greed. Our present system has led to two classes- tramps and millionaires.

We have seen for more than a quarter of a century the struggles of the two great political parties (the Democrats and Republicans) for power and plunder (theft). Meanwhile terrible wrongs have been inflicted on the suffering people. Both parties have allowed these dreadful wrongs to develop without any effort to prevent them. The two major parties are dominated by greed, corruption, and rich people.

We declare therefore:

- I. Labor forces are hereby united to uplift mankind.
- II. Wealth belongs to him who created it (the workers, not the owners).
- III. The industrial worker and the farmer have the same interests and the same enemies.
- IV. The people should own the railroads through the government.
- V. The government alone should control the money supply, and not the bankers.
- VI. There should be free and unlimited coinage of silver in a ratio of 16 to 1 compared to gold.
- VII. There should be a graduated income tax. (As income goes up, the tax rate goes up. For example, if you make \$10,000 you might pay 5% or \$500; if you make \$20,000, you might pay 10%, or \$2,000.
- VIII. The government should own and operate the telephone and telegraph (the carriers of information) in the interests of the people.
- IX. The land, including the natural resources in the land, belongs to the people. It should not be controlled by speculators (people who buy something expecting to sell it at an unusually large profit), and aliens (foreigners who are not citizens) should not be able to own it. Land owned by aliens and railroads should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers.
- X. The government should limit immigration into the United States.
- XI. There should be a shorter work week for laborers.
- XII. The secret ballot should be used in all elections.
- XIII. The people should be able to use the initiative (by which private citizens could propose laws) and referendum (by which citizens could express an opinion on an issue by voting on it).
- XIV. Senators should be elected directly by the people. (At this time, U.S. Senators were elected by state legislatures, not by citizens directly).
- XV. The president of the United States should be able to serve one four-year term only.

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I. Put an X next to the statements with which you think the Populists would have agreed, based on the Omaha Platform of 1892. Then write the reason you checked or did not check each statement, citing passages from the platform by number.

X	Statement	Reason
X	1. Rich people deserve to keep the money they have.	
X	2. Immigration is bad for the country.	
X	3. Wealth should be more equally divided.	
X	4. Society can be improved through reform.	
	5. Reform can be achieved through the Democratic and Republican parties.	
	6. Freedom is more important than equality.	
X	7. The government is controlled by the rich- it must be reformed.	

II. Put an X next to the statement you think are true, based on the Omaha Platform and the relevant information. Then write the reasons for your choices, citing passages from the platform by number and items of relevant information by letter.

X	Statement	Reasons
X	8. Farmers felt railroads were hurting them.	
X	9. Many farmers were debtors (they owed money on loans)	
X	10. The Populists were trying to gain the support of industrial workers.	
	11. Bankers supported the ideas of free coinage of silver.	
	12. Populists were conservative- that is, they wanted to go back to earlier days. They were not pushing for innovation and change.	
X	13. Populists were radical- they were suggesting radical change in our nation	

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POPULISM: Farmers decided to more formally organize their political views and in doing so, founded the Populist Party. This third political party was largely unsuccessful, but introduced ideas that were later adopted by the Republican and democratic parties during the Progressive Era.



CW p. 14

PLANKS IN THE POPULLIST PARTY PLATFORM

Direct Election of U.S. Senators	Party bosses controlled state legislatures that elected representatives to the U.S. Senate. To limit this control, the Populists proposed allowing citizens to directly elect U.S. Senators.
Secret Ballot	Privacy at the ballot box would ensure that citizens can cast votes without party bosses knowing how they voted.
Initiative	Would allow voters to petition state legislature in order to consider a bill desired by citizens.
Referendum	Would allow voters to decide if a bill or proposed amendment should be passed.
Recall	Would allow voters to petition to have an elected representative removed from office.
Direct Primary	Designed to ensure that voters select candidates to run for office, rather than party bosses.

The Populist Party was a
3rd Party

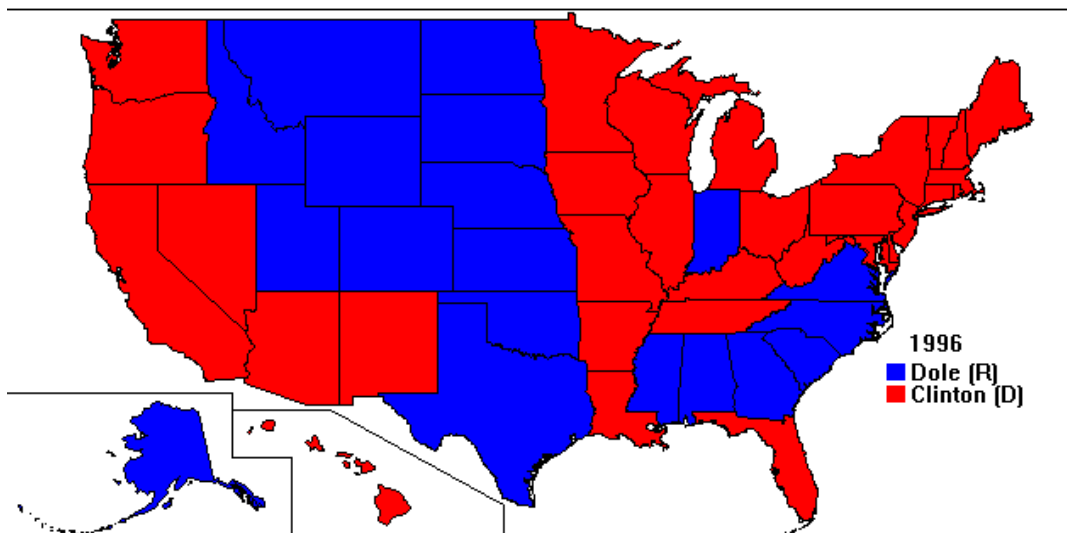
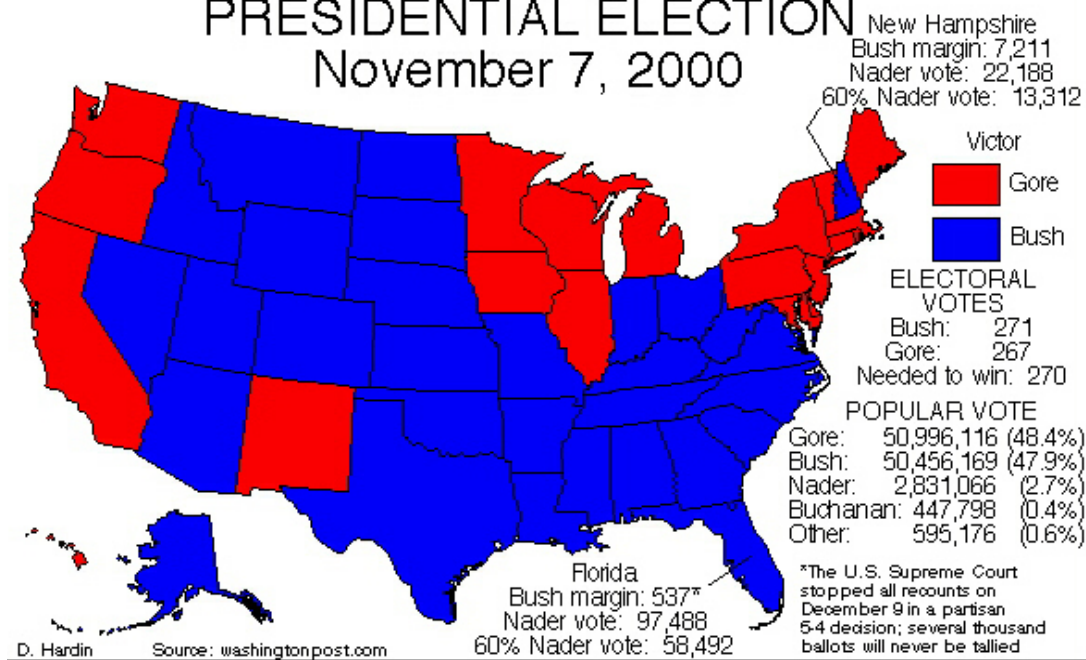
3rd party - A political party other than the Democrats or Republicans who try to get their platform recognized by one of the major parties

Name CW p. 15	Election Year	Presidential Candidate	Party Platform
Green Party 	2000	Ralph Nader	Government paid health care, same sex marriage, affirmative action, limits on campaign financing environmental friendly public policies, eliminating NAFTA.
Reform Party 	1996	Ross Perot	Balancing the budget, reforming Medicare and Social Security, eliminating the Electoral College, limits of campaign fundraising.
American Independence Party	1968	George Wallace	A return to American values; Anti- "left-wing theoreticians, 'briefcase toting' bureaucrats, ivory tower guideline writers, bearded anarchists, smart-aleck editorial writers, and pointy headed professors"
Bull-Moose Party	1912	Theodore Roosevelt	Tariff reduction, woman's suffrage, regulation of big business, end to child labor, and eight-hour work day, worker compensation and the popular election of senators.



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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION November 7, 2000



Candidate	Popular Vote	%	Electoral Vote
Clinton	47,401,185	50	379
Dole	39,197,469	41	159
Perot	8,085,294	9	0

If third parties have no realistic chance of winning an election, why do they bother running?

What problems faced America in the late 1800s that led to the Progressive Movement and why did they exist?

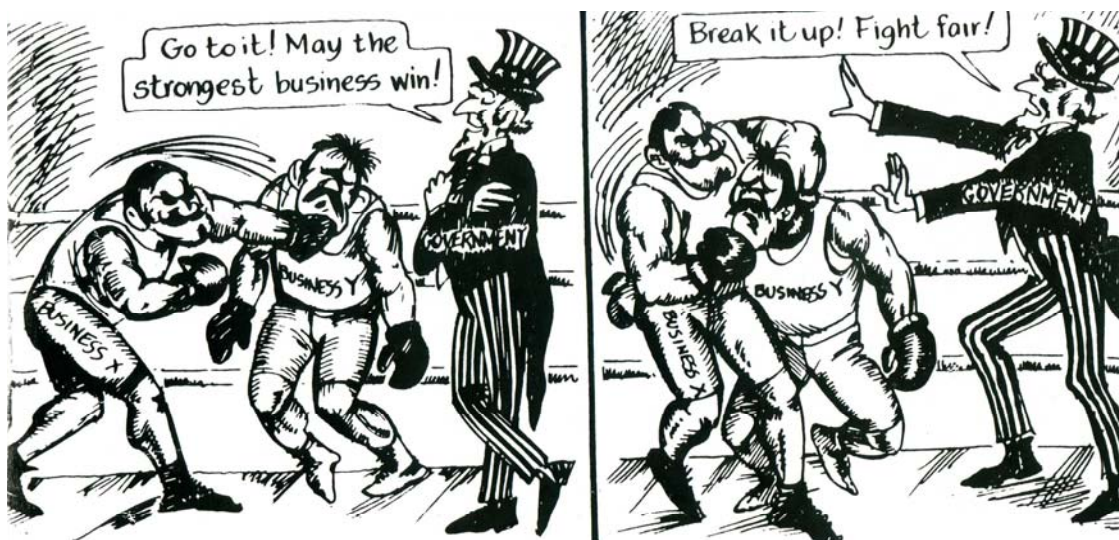
Why did these problems exist?

Rapid urbanization

Rapid industrialization

Corruption

**Laissez-faire gov. policies
and unregulated business**



The conservative view

The progressive view

How does the progressive view intend to change the way America "does business" ?

Progressives . . .

Wanted to free the government from corruption so it could be more efficient in an expanded role as guardian of workers and the poor.

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How were these problems brought to life?...

Muckrakers (group of newspaper reporters and writers) wrote about people who suffered as a result of industrialization. They got this name because they “raked” through the muck (dirt) of American life in search of news. They also let the American people know about the dishonest and corrupt practices of people in government and big business.



CW p. 16

Progressive Era:

Age of Reform 1890-1920

- ☐ A time when both parties – **DEMOCRAT & REPUBLICAN** - came to feel that certain economic & **POLITICAL** wrongs in the U.S. had to be corrected & that the gov't should **TAKE THE LEAD IN DOING SO**
- ☐ Influenced by **MUCKRAKERS**: ideas supported by **“CIVIC-MINDED”** middle class.

Progressives wanted to fix:

- abuses of **MONOPOLIES & TRUSTS**
- **RATE-FIXING OF RAILROADS**
- exploitation of **CHILD** labor
- **SWEATSHOP CONDITIONS**
- corruption of city **POLITICAL MACHINES** & bosses

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Progressive Achievements

- Pure Food & Drug Acts, Meat Inspection Act
- CHILD LABOR LAWS
- Hepburn Act – reg. of RAILROADS
- FEDERAL RESERVE
- Federal Trade Commission
- Federal INCOME Tax (PROGRESSIVE)
- DIRECT Popular vote of SENATORS & direct PRIMARIES
- Preservation of NATURAL LANDS



Do any of these reforms sound familiar? Why?

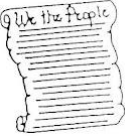
What does this say about the impact 3rd parties have on American politics?

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Matching: Match the Amendment with the provision it allowed.

- 16th Amendment:
- 17th Amendment:
- 18th Amendment:
- 19th Amendment:

- a. Prohibition: prohibited manufacture, sale & transportation of alcohol
- b. Congress granted power to impose an Income Tax
- c. Suffrage: Women have the right to vote.
- d. Direct election of Senators



- Famous Progressives:
- Pres. R. Roosevelt- Trust buster
 - **Pres. Woodrow Wilson-**
 - Jane Addams- Hull House - settlement houses (Henry St in NYC)
 - Florence **Kelley-** child labor laws
 - **Susan B. Anthony-** women's suffrage
 - Eugene Debs- socialist
 - W.E.B. Dubois - NAACP; equality NOW
 - Booker T. Washington - stressed vocational skills & economic independence
 - Margaret Sanger - contraception

*The Era ended when the U.S. entered into **WWI** & our focus changed. The **19th** Amendment actually was passed after **WWI** in recognition of the women's contribution to the war effort.*

How successful was the Progressive Era Movement?

Successes	Failures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federal Income Tax- progressive• Laissez-faire philosophy abandoned but not a socialist gov't• RR's were regulated• Change in politics as usual• Natural Resources protected	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No real re-alignment of 2 party system• Federal Reserve system did not really take the nation's economy out of "money trust"• Clayton Anti-trust leg did not fully address monopolies• Labor unrest continued in spite of law protections• Farmers still experience problems• No real redistribution of nation's wealth

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- Pres. T. Roosevelt
- PRES. WOODROW WILSON
- Jane Addams
- Florence KELLEY
- SUSAN B. ANTHONY
- Eugene Debs

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